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Dear Mr. Chairman:

Ambassador Thompson has reported to me his conversation with you concerning the question of timing in connection with the Berlin problem. While I much appreciate your thought, I feel bound to point out that this problem is of such importance that it should be dealt with irrespective of any other considerations. If it is possible to reach an agreement or even a modus vivendi which would reduce the tension in Berlin, we should do so at the earliest possible date. On the other hand, development of a serious crisis over this problem would involve such dangers to both our countries that we should both make every effort to avoid it. Secretary Rusk will, of course, continue to explore with your Ambassador every possibility of settlement of this difficult problem.

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By <u>mxh</u>	NARS, Date <u>7/87</u>